

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing of this application or entry into the national stage of this application, or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Enclosed please find a copy of the European Search Report dated May 18, 2004, together with the references cited therein. Please note that cited reference U.S. 5,190,499 is not enclosed since it was cited in the U.S. Official Action of October 7, 2003.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Application No. 10/098,529 Docket No. 740165-326

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. (740165-326)

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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Complete if Known				
Application Number	10/098,529			
Filing Date	March 18, 2002			
First Named Inventor	Shigeki YOSHIDA			
Art Unit	2872			
Examiner Name	Mark A. Robinson			
Attorney Docket Number	740165-326			

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.1	U.S. Patent Document Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			Figures Appear
		US-5,639,054 US-	06-17-1997	Gerndt et al.	
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Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Kind Code ³ Country Code ³ Number ⁴ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T⁵
		EP 0 402 465 A1	12-19-1990	Maekawa et al.		Full
		EP 0 551 607 A1	07-21-1993	Schnellbach	-	Abstract
		OTHER PRIOR A	ART – NON PATENT I	LITERATURE DOCUMENTS	1	l
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.)., date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				
		EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT DATED MAY 4, 2004				
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Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.